

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-7 and 9-11 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge ~~a liquid~~ liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, and formed such that some of the plurality of discharge nozzles discharge liquids having different liquid compositions, comprising:

removing means for removing a ~~medium liquid~~ liquid in each of said discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between ~~said the~~ the supply ~~ports port~~ port and discharge ~~ports port~~ port of ~~said each~~ each discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle,

wherein said removing means further ~~comprising~~ comprises a cap member which operates to cover a ~~predetermined one of either the said~~ predetermined one of either the said supply ~~ports port~~ port or discharge ~~ports port~~ port, when removing the ~~medium liquid~~ liquid in ~~said one of the~~ one of the discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzles, so as to come into tight contact with ~~said the~~ the discharge head, and

wherein said removing means accumulates the liquids removed from the discharge nozzles through a filtration unit and a deaeration unit, such that liquids having the same liquid composition are accumulated together in a liquid collection container and can be used again.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said removing means generates a negative pressure in ~~said the~~ discharge ~~ports~~ port, with ~~said the~~ discharge ~~ports~~ port being covered by said cap member, and removes the ~~medium~~ liquid in ~~said the one~~ discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle by suction through said cap member.

3. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said removing means generates a positive pressure in ~~said the~~ supply ports, with ~~said the~~ supply ports being covered by ~~said the~~ cap member, and removes the liquids by pushing ~~out~~ the ~~medium~~ liquids in ~~said the~~ discharge nozzles ~~from said~~ out of the discharge ports.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when removing the ~~medium~~ liquid in ~~said the one~~ discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle, said cap member operates to come into tight contact with ~~said the~~ discharge head so as to cover only ~~an arbitrary one of said the~~ supply ~~ports~~ port or discharge ~~ports~~ port of the one discharge nozzle without coming into contact with any adjacent ~~one of said~~ supply ~~ports~~ port or discharge ~~ports~~ port.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said removing means comprises:

cap members equal in number to a number of ~~said the~~ discharge nozzles~~[[,]]~~; and

a connecting member to be connected to ~~either~~ one of communication channels connected to said cap members,

wherein when removing the ~~medium~~ liquid in ~~said the~~ discharge nozzles, said cap members operate to come into contact with ~~said the~~ discharge head so as to cover ~~said predetermined~~ discharge ports without coming into contact with adjacent ~~ones of said~~ discharge ports, and said connecting member operates to be connected to ~~either~~ one of said communication channels, so that the ~~medium~~ liquids in ~~said the~~ nozzles ~~is~~ are removed

through a cap member that is connected to ~~that~~ the one of said communication channels which is connected to said connecting member.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ discharge head comprises ~~an~~ electrothermal ~~transducer~~ transducers which ~~generates~~ generate heat energy for liquid discharge.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~said the~~ discharge head discharges the liquid from ~~said the~~ discharge ports by utilizing film boiling caused by the heat energy applied by ~~said the~~ electrothermal ~~transducer~~ transducers.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A removing method of removing a ~~medium~~ liquid from a discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle in a discharging apparatus by using said removing means according to claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A method in a discharging apparatus of removing a ~~medium~~ liquid from some of discharge nozzles formed in a discharge ~~nozzle~~ head in ~~a~~ the discharging apparatus by using said removing means according to claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) In a discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge ~~a liquid~~ liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, and formed such that some of the plurality of discharge nozzles discharge liquids having different liquid compositions, a removing method comprising the step of:

applying a pressure difference between the supply ~~ports~~ port and discharge ~~ports~~ port of each of the discharge nozzles, thereby removing a ~~medium liquid~~ liquid in the each discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle,

wherein a cap member which covers a ~~predetermined one of either~~ the supply ~~ports~~ port or discharge ~~ports~~ port of one of the discharge nozzles is brought into contact with the discharge head, and the ~~medium liquid~~ liquid in the one discharge ~~nozzles~~ nozzle is removed through the cap member,

wherein the liquids are removed from the discharge nozzles through a filtration unit and a deaeration unit, such that liquids having the same liquid composition are accumulated together in a liquid collection container and can be used again.